CLAIMS

1. A desktop card printer, comprising:

an external communication link;

a multi-platform standardized PDL controller in communication with said link;

at least one data writer in communication with said controller;

wherein said controller controls a data output of said data writer.

2. The desktop card printer according to claim 1, wherein:

said controller is a PCL® controller.

3. The desktop card printer according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one data writer comprises one of the group consisting of a print head, a magnetic write head, and a smart card contact.

4. The desktop card printer according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of data writers in communication with said controller, wherein said controller controls data outputs of each of said data writers.

5. The desktop card printer according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one data writer comprises a smart card contact; and

said desktop card printer comprises a smart card coupler in communication with said controller and said contact, such that said controller controls said data output of said contact via said coupler.

6. The desktop card printer according to claim 5, further comprising:

a plurality of smart card couplers in communication with said controller and said contact, such that said controller controls said data output of said contact via a selected one of said couplers.

7. The desktop card printer according to claim 6, wherein:

said at least one data writer comprises a first mode print head and a second mode print head, and a first print mode of said first mode print head is different from a second print mode of said second mode print head.

8. The desktop card printer according to claim 7, wherein:

said first mode print head is a dye sublimation printer, and said second mode print head is a surface printer.

9. A desktop card printer, comprising:

an external communication link;

a PDL controller in communication with said link;

at least one data writer in communication with said controller;

wherein said controller controls a data output of said at least one data writer;

said link is an Ethernet link; and

said controller is a Telnet controller.

10. A desktop card printer, comprising:

a USB hub internal to said printer;

a smart card contact;

a plurality of smart card couplers in communication with said USB hub and said contact;

wherein a selected one of said couplers controls a data output of said contact; and

said one of said couplers is selectable via said USB hub.

11. A desktop card printer according to claim 10, wherein said USB hub is electronically integrated therein.

12. A method of card printing in a desktop card printer, comprising:

from a host, commanding a controller of said printer using a multi-platform standardized PDL, so as to control said controller;

with said controller, interpreting commands from said host, and commanding at least one data writer of said printer so as to control said at least one data writer;

writing data with said at least one data writer to a card in said card printer.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

commanding said controller using PCL®.

14. The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

said at least one data writer comprises one of the group consisting of a print head, a magnetic write head, and a smart card contact.

15. The method according to claim 12, wherein said printer comprises a plurality of data writers, further comprising:

with said controller, selecting one from said plurality of data writers;

with said controller, commanding said selected data writer so as to control said selected data writer; and

writing data to said card with said selected data writer.

16. The method according to claim 12, wherein said printer comprises a plurality of data writers, further comprising:

with said controller, selecting first and second data writers from said plurality of data writers;

with said controller, selectively commanding said selected data writers so as to selectively control said selected data writers; and

selectively writing data to said card with said first and second selected data writers.

17. The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

from a host, commanding a coupler in said printer so as to control said coupler;

with said coupler, interpreting commands from said host, and commanding a smart card contact so as to control said smart card contact;

writing data with said smart card contact to a card in said card printer.

18. The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

from said host, commanding said controller via an internal USB hub;

from said host, commanding a coupler in said printer via said USB hub so as to control said coupler;

with said coupler, interpreting commands from said host, and commanding a smart card contact so as to control said smart card contact;

writing data with said smart card contact to a card in said card printer.

19. The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

commanding said controller via a network.

20. The method according to claim 19, wherein said controller is a Telnet controller, further comprising:

commanding said controller using Telnet protocol.